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## LEGISLATIVE SPOUSES DONATE TO SENATE LEWIS AND CLARK ART

The Montana Legislative Spouses' Club is donating \$2,000 to help pay for the dramatic Lewis and Clark bronze bas relief sculpture that was dedicated in the Senate Chamber earlier this session.

Club President Kay MacLaren, wife of Rep. Gary MacLaren, R-Victor, and Club Treasurer Arlene Hawk, wife of Rep. Ray Hawk, R-Florence, along with Secretary Jane Hawks, wife of Sen. Bob Hawks D-Bozeman, and Christl Bales, wife of Sen. Keith Bales, R-Otter, will present a \$2,000 check to Sen. President Mike Cooney, D-Helena, and Montana Historical Society Director Richard Sims Thursday (April 19) at 1 p.m. in ceremonies in the Senate Chamber.

All of the members of the Spouse's Club have been invited to be on the Senate floor for the ceremony.

The 18-feet by eight-feet sculpture of a Lewis and Clark river scene in Montana now graces the Senate wall directly behind the rostrum.

"In as much as we did a project last session in the House lobby, we wanted to do something for the Senate this session," Mrs. Hawk said. Two years ago the Club donated oak tables and a slag-glass lamp for the House lobby.

The legislative spouses, whether in Helena for the session or at their homes keeping things going, are a vital part of Montana's lawmaking process.

In addition to fundraising for projects like the bas relief in the Senate, the club hosts the Memorial Tea each session, which honors those past legislators who have died during the interim between sessions.

The club's officers urged Montanans to help pay for the sculpture by purchasing limited edition bronze medallions, and 26-inch by 14-inch exact bronze replicas of the Senate Lewis and Clark scene from the Society.

"This was an important project, and we wanted to set a good example for our fellow Montanans to follow," Hawk said.

The 2003 Legislature passed a bill charging the Society with overseeing the creation of a Lewis and Clark artwork for the Senate and paying for it through the sales of the medallions and replica miniatures.

Only 242 of the medallions remain out of the limited edition of 1,000, and only 26 of the limited edition of 75 exact replicas are still available. The medallions and the replicas are numbered and come with a certificate of authenticity. They can be ordered by calling the Society at 406-444-1799 at a cost of \$80 for the medallions and \$3,500 for the replicas.